

# A New Section, An Old Hope

**T**his issue of THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE inaugurates a new section and responds to an old hope. The Clinical Investigation Section has been brought to life through an agreement reached between the *WJM* and the five scientific societies that meet in Carmel each February. These societies—the Western Society for Clinical Investigation, the Western Association of Physicians, the Western Society for Pediatric Research, the American Federation for Clinical Research (Western Section) and the Society for Investigative Dermatology (Western Region)—exist almost exclusively to foster biomedical research, nurture promising young investigators and encourage collegiality among medical school faculty in the western United States and western Canada.

The Carmel meetings are enormously successful, but something always seems to be missing the rest of the year. Consequently, the Western Research Societies have periodically hoped to start a new research journal. However, fiscally difficult times and the obvious surfeit of scientific publications argued against such a venture. At the same time, the *WJM* has never been completely satisfied with the quality and quantity of articles it has published dealing with clinical investigation in its formal sense—that is, prospective studies of humans or human

tissues designed to provide insights into pathogenesis and treatment of disease states. Happily, these bilateral, gnawing concerns have been transformed by the journal and the societies into the jointly sponsored enterprise that follows.

The new Clinical Investigation Section welcomes submission of manuscripts reporting top-quality, imaginative research into the full gamut of human pathophysiology—medical, surgical and pediatric. At first, the section probably will not appear with every issue unless we are immediately flooded with superb manuscripts—a delightful but unlikely prospect. However, within a year we hope this section will be a regular part of each issue. As Editor of the section, I will rely heavily on the support and advice of the scientific advisory board, which is composed of representatives from each of the 20 medical schools in the western United States and western Canada. Since the success of this new section is clearly dependent upon your support and participation, we hope you will be as excited and enthusiastic as we are about grasping this opportunity to round out the excellence of the *WJM* and to promote an even healthier interaction among clinical investigators in the West.

R. PAUL ROBERTSON, MD  
*Editor for Clinical Investigation*

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